

An Inaugural Dissertation

on

The Subject of Pneumonia

Presented

To the Faculty

of the

Homoeopathic Medical College

of

Pennsylvania

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Feby. 5. 1867

Woodbury

New Jersey

Pneumonia or Inflammation of the Lungs.

There are several varieties of this disease; the most common variety, the one most frequently met with and the one of which I shall treat, is that form which attacks either one lobe or one entire lung and is called common or Lobar Pneumonia.

Symptoms. The symptoms of this form, are fever preceded generally

by a chill or rigors;
Severe pain in the side,
back or chest; dif-
-ficult breathing; every
-inspiration produc-
-ing severe pain;
and cough which is
dry at the commence-
-ment of the disease,
afterwards attended
with scanty expecto-
-ration of viscid mu-
-cus of various shades
of color, but general-
-ly of a dingy brick
red or rusty hue, very
frequently streaked with
blood; as the disease
advances the expecto-
-ration increases.

The cough is invariably excited or aggravated by every deep inspiration and produces a great deal of pain in the affected part; the breathing is very much quickened; the number of inspirations may be increased to thirty, forty or even fifty in a minute; there is also a feeling of oppression which is increased by vocal effort; the dyspnoea is sometimes very great, obliging the patient to sit in an

erect posture; the pain is generally of a very acute character and particularly so if the Pleura is involved; the cough does not always come with the disease, but may set in a day or two after the commencement; the patient generally lies on the back when laboring under this disease.

Complications. Pneumonia may be complicated with Pleurisy which is then called Pleuropneumonia, it is not unfrequently associated with symptoms of bilious derangement,

and then called Bilious-pneumonia; occasionally Pneumonia, occurring in persons with feeble constitutions, may assume a Typhoid character of disease when it is called Typhoid-Pneumonia.

The Physical Signs of Pneumonia are a slight dullness on percussion at the commencement of the disease and increases as the disease advances. Auscultation exhibits a dry crep-
-itant r le which is best heard at the close of a deep inspiration and on coughing; sometimes the respiratory murmur is

intermingled with the crep-
-itant r le. When hep-
-atization occurs, the crepi-
-tant r le is replaced by
Bronchial respiration,
also in Suppuration with
the addition of the mu-
cus r le - denoting the
existence of mucus in the
larger Bronchii.

Diagnosis. Pneumonia
is liable to be confound-
-ed with Pleurisy and
Bronchitis; the expectora-
-tion in both is differ-
-ent from that of
Pneumonia; in Pleurisy
the expectoration is slight
mucus or frothy, and some-
times streaked with blood;

In Bronchitis the expectoration may be streaked with blood, but never has the extremely viscid and rusty character of the sputa of Pneumonia. The physical signs are different also; no crepitant r le is heard in Bronchitis or Pleurisy.

Prognosis. This is considered one of the most difficult and uncertain diseases under Allopathic treatment that they have to contend with, and is generally considered unfavorable, and particularly so when occurring in

children and old persons; persons of robust constitutions may be able to stand the heroic treatment of Allopathy but it is a long time before they regain their strength; under Homoeopathic treatment the Prognosis is favorable and the treatment almost always successful.

Treatment. The remedies generally used are Aconite, Arsenicum, Arnica, Belladonna, Bryonia, Lycopodium, Phosphorus, ~~Rhus~~ Toxicodendron and Tartar Emetic.

Aconite. Is generally used at the commencement of the disease -

where there is much fever; severe shooting pains in the side or breast; dry cough; difficult breathing.

Belladonna. Flushed face; dry red tongue; tickling cough, worse when lying down; severe pain in the head.

Bryonia. Is indicated where the Pleura is involved with shooting pains, increased by motion; cough loose; thick coated tongue; constipation with gastric derangement; rheumatic or bruising pains in the muscles of the chest and lower extremities.

Phosphorus. Has a specific influence over this disease and is used in almost every stage. In Puerile Pneumonia where there is a great deal of difficult breathing; tight cough; child cries whenever it coughs or takes an inspiration, one dose of the 200th. of Phosphorus will frequently effect a cure. Phosphorus is more particularly indicated where the sputa is of a rusty character; difficult breathing; tight cough

Sycopodium. Is particularly indicated where

there is that fan-like motion of the nostrils.

Tartar Emetic. Has been more particularly recommended in the second stage of the disease or stage of hepatization; great oppression of the chest; laborious respiration; loose cough with mucus rattling and alleviation of the oppression by the expectoration.

Arsenicum Album. Is indicated where there is great oppression; very little expectoration; cold clammy sweat with coldness of the breath; tremulous

and scarcely perceptible pulse; cadaveric countenance; coldness of the extremities.

Arnica and Rhus are more particularly indicated where the disease has been caused by a blow or injury and where there are sore aching pains in the chest and extremities; disposition to change the position often which affords relief.

Sulphur. It is often necessary, in cases of Pneumonia where it occurs in

persons of Scrofulous habits, where the foregoing remedies do not act as they should, to occasionally give a dose of Sulphur.

Sulphur is sometimes indicated in the disease where there is a great deal of burning in the feet and the patient has a desire to put them out of bed.